



The Gibault Home For Boys

The idea of a home for delinquent Catholic boys was first brought into being in 1909 when a small group of members of the Knights of Columbus and a Catholic priest were discussing matters of Catholic interest. The thoughts expressed at that time grew with the years and was discussed at each succeeding State Convention of the Knights of Columbus until in 1916 a foundation fund was established, looking toward the realization of this dream and in 1920 a goodly sum was in the treasury. The selection of a site was the next step and after considerable looking about, the fine estate of Mr. and Mrs. Fred B. Smith, located five miles south of Terre Haute, gained the favor of the committee in charge with a purchase price of \$75,000.00 involved. On the day the committee was to make its final decision, Mr. and Mrs. Fred B. Smith decided to donate the sum of \$25,000.00 if their estate was purchased. This factor gained unanimous approval of the committee and the site for the home, practically ready to start operation, was purchased. It was realized, in the beginning, that the first price of \$75,000.00 was an exceptionally low figure and great credit for the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Smith should be given. The purchase was made in 1921 and the home named The Gibault Home for Boys. In naming it the Gibault Home, in honor to the memory of the Very Rev. Pierre Gibault who was ordained a priest in Quebec, Canada, March 19, 1768, and was noted for his missionary labors among the Indian and French settlers in the then Northwest. He was created Vivar-General in 1768, was sent to Vincennes, Indiana in 1770 as pastor and assisted George Rogers Clark materially in the latter's conquest of Kaskaskia and Vincennes. He is supposed to have died in Missouri in 1804 but his last resting place is unknown. Rev. Micheal J. Gorman was the founder and director of Gibault Home and remained with the institution for 13 years when the Brothers of Holy Cross assumed charge on September 1, 1934 with Brother Rupert C. S. C. as its director and Brother Anastasius, C. S. C. as assistant director, and Rev. J. J. Reddington, C. S. C. as Chaplain. Brother Oswin, C. S. C. is Perfect of Discipline and Brother Avila, C. S. C. is Engineer. The home has an enrollment of 50 boys at this writing and all grade from first to sophomore high school are taught. A large amount of credit is due Father Gorman for his persistent and tireless efforts in early years of the home in establishing proper corrective methods and turning out boys whose characters had been molded in a fine religious atmosphere. Gibault Home is sponsored by and maintained by the Knights of Columbus of Indiana in which the local council, Terre Haute Council No. 541 has played an important part.

History of Good Will Council No. 277 - - Young Men's Institute

Back in 1895 a group of young and middle aged men gathered together for the purpose of considering the organization of a Council of the Young Men's Institute, which had been originated in California in 1883. The result was the institution of Good Will Council No. 277 on August 15th, 1895, with a charter list composed of C. S. Cronin, T. W. Byrne, D. J. O'Connell, Dennis Shughrue, James T. O'Connell, J. W. Johnson, J. J. McCabe, John Welch, John Quinlan, Daniel Ronan, James Mugavan, Frank Kluck, Louis Antlitner, Michael O'Dowd, Jas. M. Carlos, W. C. Thompson, William Thompson, T. B. Boland, Frank Conrath, Jno. W. Gerdink, J. A. McCabe, J. R. Piffer, John Shea with the establishment of a meeting place at 11th and Wabash Ave. John W. Gerdink was the first president of the new organization. The influx of members was very good and within a couple of years it was necessary to move to larger quarters, these being secured in the McKeen Bank building at 6th and Wabash Ave. where commodious club rooms were established. In 1916 the Council bought the Brinkman property at 8th and Eagle streets, adding to it a large auditorium, bowling alleys and recreational rooms, the property being placed under the management of a holding organization known as the Y. M. I. Home Association. Late in 1929 the club house was sold to Kerman Grotto and the club rooms of the Y. M. I. were moved to the Beach block and later to their present quarters at 28 South 7th street. The present officers of Good Will Council are Martin C. Klug, president, Herman Krackenberger, financial secretary, Norman Koester, recording secretary and Martin C. O'Connell, treasurer. The Y. M. I. Home Association board of directors is composed of Jacob Rassel, president, Eugene L. Gocke, secretary-treasurer and Frank Striley, John Canty, William Schoemehl, George Scheidel, Jr., Herbert Roetker, Martin C. O'Connell, Martin C. Klug and Albert A. Dicks.

St.-Mary's-of-the-Woods

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Saint Mary-of-the-Woods officially began with the taking possession of the one room which was to serve as dormitory, refectory and recreation room, as well as an infirmary for ten people. Expansion of the school at that time was impossible and it became the first duty of these Sisters to erect an academy building in which to house themselves and their future students. Bishop de la Hailandiere, who had succeeded Bishop Brute, had laid the foundation of a small structure. Workmen were procured and the building progressed through the winter months. Meanwhile the Sisters were busy with their own numerous duties. Among them was the training of the four postulants—teaching them French, and in turn being taught English by them. The school was first opened to students in July, 1841, but the inauguration of the school did not end its troubles. The congregation was in poor circumstances and the Sisters were hard pressed to maintain their school and home. Mother Theodore, ever resourceful and courageous, decided to return to France and make a personal appeal for alms to carry on her mission. When Mother Theodore returned to Indiana she set about the development of the school. She counseled with the learned educators of the day, concerning the curriculum and teaching methods and, as a result, the state legislature granted Saint Mary-of-the-Woods a perpetual and irrevocable charter as an institution of higher education. Even then, the growth of the school was slow on account of its location (roads were not then what they are now) but the opening of the railway from Terre Haute to Paris (Illinois) in 1854 brought Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in much closer contact with the outside world.

In spite of ill health, Mother Theodore continued to be the guiding influence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods until her death, May 14, 1856. That she laid the foundation of the school thoroughly and well is proved by the fact that its educational system today is basically the same as in her time.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods is the Motherhouse for the congregation of the Sisters of Providence, directing numerous grade schools and secondary schools throughout the United States and even in China. Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College today, with its well-trained faculty; its eleven hundred acres of remarkably well-cared-for estate; its score of beautiful buildings so modern and thoroughly equipped, warrants the statement that it is a school of highest rank of its kind in the United States and, because of this, its student body is drawn from the entire world.

Thirty-six

1935- ST. JOSEPH'S LEAGUE STATE CONVENTION